



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/044,821

01/10/2002

Hieu Van Tran

2102397-991260

4886

26379

7590

11/20/2003

GRAY CARY WARE & FREIDENRICH LLP

2000 UNIVERSITY AVENUE

E. PALO ALTO, CA 94303-2248

EXAMINER

LE, TOAN K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2824

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/044,821

Applicant(s)

TRAN ET AL.

Examiner

Toan Le

Art Unit

2824

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 August 2003 and 09 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 34-36 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 37-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 April 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: *East search histoty.*

### DETAILED ACTION

1. The Preliminary Amendment filed on April 15, 2002 is acknowledged.
2. This office action is in response to applicant's amendments filed on August 29, 2003 and September 09, 2003.
3. Claims 1-33 and 37-40 are presented for examination.

#### *Specification*

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because **the abstract exceed 150 words**. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
5. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 37-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wong (US 6,134,141).

Art Unit: 2824

Wong discloses in figures 2 and 5, a memory device having an array of memory cells (130) arranged in rows and columns (see col. 3, lines 36-37), the memory cells being hot electron injection memory cells or split gate memory cells (see col. 3, lines 2-3 and col. 4, lines 55-57); a first bias circuit (220) including a current source and a first bias transistor (227), the first bias circuit generating a bias current ( $V_{vfy}$ ); and a second bias circuit comprising a plurality of bias current sources (242), each bias current source coupled to the first bias transistor (227) and to a corresponding memory cell and mirroring the bias current (see figs. 2 and 5).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

8. Claims 1-33 are allowable over the art of record.
9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record does not teach or suggest a memory device or a distributed current network having a local bias circuit generating a plurality of bias currents in response to a corresponding one of a plurality of first bias currents which are generated from a global bias circuit as recited in the independent claims 1, 22 and 31.

***Conclusion***


10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Pasotti et al. (US 2002/0196664 A1), Bergemont et al. (US 6,606,265), Quader et al. (6,396,757), Tran et al. (US 6,282,145) disclose a memory device similar to that of Wong.
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan Le whose telephone number is (703) 305-4852. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8.00AM - 5.30PM).

Art Unit: 2824

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms can be reached on (703) 308-2816. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

TL  
November 12, 2003

  
MICHAEL S. LEBENTRITT  
PRIMARY EXAMINER